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Message Text

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TO USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

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TOSEC 540

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)
SUBJECT: EVENING WIRES, TV REPORT, NOV. 26, 1974.

FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON FROM S/PRS. NO. 4.

1. AP - SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER BRIEFED CHINESE OFFICIALS TODAY ON THE US-SOVIET AGREEMENT TO LIMIT OFFENSIVE NUCLEAR WEAPONS. BUT HE STILL DIDN'T KNOW WHETHER HE WOULD BE SUMMONED TO TALK WITH CHAIRMAN MAO TSE-TUNG.

THE BRIEFING, HELD IN A CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE GREAT HALL OF THE PEOPLE, WAS A MEANS OF REASSURING CHINA THAT PRESIDENT FORD REACHED NO SECRET UNDERSTANDINGS WITH SOVIET LEADER LEONID I. BREZHNEV LAST WEEKEND IN VLADIVOSTOK.

KISSINGER HOPES TO SEE MAO BEFORE LEAVING FOR HOME BUT HAS BEEN GIVEN NO WORD. HIS THREE PREVIOUS AUDIENCES ON PAST TRIPS ALL DEVELOPED WITH LESS THAN 15 MINUTES NOTICE.

MAO, WHO IS 80, HAS NOT BEEN SEEN IN PEKING FOR MONTHS.
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SOME REPORTS SUGGEST HE IS MASTERMINDING A SHOWDOWN WITH

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OPPONENTS, ANOTHER THAT HE IS SERIOUSLY ILL IN HIS NATIVE PROVINCE OF HUNAN AND A THIRD THAT HE IS SIMPLY ESCAPING THE PEKING WINTER IN A WARM CLIMATE.

KISSINGER AND A HALF DOZEN AIDES DISCUSSED THE PLAN WITH CHINESE VICE PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING, FOREIGN MINISTER CHIAO KUAN-HUA, CHINESE LIAISON TO WASHINGTON HUANG CHEN AND OTHERS.

QUOTE WE ALWAYS PROGRESS IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH EACH EXCHANGE, END QUOTE KISSINGER SAID DURING THE FEW MINUTES OF THE SESSION THAT CORRESPONDENTS WERE ALLOWED TO SEE.

QUOTE WE OUTNUMBER YOU TODAY, END QUOTE KISSINGER TOLD TENG IN A FRIENDLY MOOD.

TENG, WITH FEWER ASSISTANTS ON HIS SIDE OF THE TABLE, REPLIED SOFTLY: QUOTE MORE OF US ARE COMING. ANYHOW, WE HAVE 800 MILLION. END QUOTE

BEFORE THE BRIEFING SESSION, KISSINGER, HIS WIFE NANCY AND HIS CHILDREN BY A PREVIOUS MARRIAGE, ELIZABETH, 15, AND DAVID, 13, WALKED THROUGH THE PALACE MUSEUM IN THE FORBIDDEN CITY, WHOSE PAGODA-LIKE BUILDINGS WERE OFF LIMITS TO THE COMMON PEOPLE DURING THE DYNASTIES.

IN THE AFTERNOON, MRS. KISSINGER AND THE CHILDREN WERE TAKEN TO A MODEL COMMUNE. IN THE EVENING, AFTER A RECEPTION BY GEORGE BUSH, HEAD OF THE U.S. LIAISON OFFICE IN PEKING, KISSINGER AND HIS PARTY RETURNED TO THE GREAT HALL FOR A MUSICAL PERFORMANCE.

THE OVER-ALL THEME WAS THAT REVOLUTIONARY GOOD TRIUMPHS. IN A BRIEF RESPITE FROM THAT MESSAGE, "HOME ON THE RANGE" WAS PLAYED ON A CHINESE LUTE.

PEOPLE'S DAILY PLAYED UP THE KISSINGER VISIT TUESDAY, USING A FRONT-PAGE STORY AND A PHOTOGRAPH OF HIM WITH PREMTER CHOU EN-LAI TAKEN DURING A BRIEF TALK ON MONDAY EVENING.
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2. UPI - AMERICAN OFFICIALS SAID TODAY THE PEKING LEADERS HAVE SENT AT LEAST TWO LETTERS TO FORMER PRES. NIXON SINCE HIS AUGUST 9 RESIGNATION. WHAT THE LETTERS SAID AND WHETHER NIXON REPLIED WAS NOT IMMEDIATELY KNOWN HERE.

NIXON'S REPUTATION HAS NOT SUFFERED IN CHINA BECAUSE OF

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THE WATERGATE SCANDAL THAT LED TO HIS RESIGNATION. CHIAO SINGLED OUT THE FORMER PRESIDENT BY NAME IN HIS TOAST AT MONDAY NIGHT'S STATE BANQUET FOR KISSINGER.

CHIAO CITED "THE PIONEERING ROLE OF RICHARD M. NIXON" IN REOPENING RELATIONS WITH CHINA THREE YEARS AGO.

EXPLAINING THE CHANGE FROM NIXON TO PRESIDENT FORD TO THE CHINESE HAS BEEN ONE OF KISSINGER'S TASKS IN HIS TALKS WITH CHIAO AND TENG. HE HAS SAID IN PUBLIC AND THE CHINESE HAVE APPLAUDED AMERICA'S CHINA POLICY CONTINUING THE SAME COURSE UNDER FORD AS UNDER NIXON.

THERE WAS NO WORD WHETHER KISSINGER WOULD SEE CHAIRMAN MAO TSE-TUNG THIS VISIT.

3. ABC EVENING NEWS, 15 MINUTES INTO PROGRAM.
HOWARD K. SMITH: ABC'S HERBERT KAPLOW, WHO WENT WITH KISSINGER, HAS THIS REPORT:

KAPLOW: HIS 7TH VISIT SINCE IT ALL BEGAN ALMOST 3 1/2 YRS. AGO, BUT THIS TIME WITH HIS WIFE. KISSINGER, BY NOW ALMOST A FAMILIAR FIGURE, ARRIVING AT THE PEKING AIRPORT. HE HAD FLOWN FROM TOKYO, BUT BEFORE THAT HE HAD SPEND A DAY WITH THE RUSSIANS AT VLADIVOSTOK, WITH THOSE WHOM THE CHINESE DISTRUST SO MUCH. SHORTLY AFTER THE ARRIVAL THE AMERICAN DIPLOMAT WAS TAKEN TO HIS GUEST HOUSE AND THERE POSED FOR PICTURES, THEN TO A HOSPITAL AND A COURTESY CALL ON THE MAN WITH WHOM KISSINGER HAD DEALT SO MUCH IN THESE PAST 3 1/2 YEARS, PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI. THE 76 YEAR OLD CHINESE LEADER SECOND ONLY TO CHAIRMAN MAO HAS BEEN ILL FOR SEVERAL MONTHS NOW. HIS FOREIGN POLICY RESPONSIBILITIES ARE BEING HANDLED NOW BY FON MIN
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CHIAO HUANG HUA. AND OF COURSE THE BANQUET IN THE GREAT HALL OF THE PEOPLE. AS IS THE CUSTOM, THERE WAS THE EXCHANGE OF TOASTS, THE FIRST BY THE CHINESE FON MIN CHIAU HUANG HUA. AMONG OTHER THINGS HE SALUTED FORMER PREZ NIXON, FOR THE PIONEERING ROLE HE PLAYED FOR IMPROVING SINO-AMERICAN RELATIONS. THEN KISSINGER RESPONDED (FILM): THE BEGINNING OF THE PROCESS OF NORMAL-IZATION OF RELATIONS WITH THE PEOPLES' REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND ITS CONTINUATION IN THE YEARS SINCE THEN HAS NOT BEEN A MATTER OF EXPEDIENCY BUT A FIXED PRINCIPLE OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY."

KAPLOW: KISSINGER'S BEEN CHARACTERIZING THIS AS A REGULAR ANNUAL VISIT, TRYING TO HEAD OFF EXPECTATIONS OF BIG THINGS TO COME, THIS HIS SEVENTH VISIT TO MAINLAND

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CHINA.

4. NBC NIGHTLY NEWS, JOHN CHANCELLOR (15 MTS. INTO PROGRAM).CHANCELLOR: SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER MET TODAY WITH CHINA'S DEPUTY PREMIER AND FON MIN IN

PEKING. DEP. PREMIER TING CHIAO PING TOLD KISSINGER HE'D LIKE TO CONFER WITH HIM IN WASHINGTON. KISSINGER REPLIED THAT HE HOPES THAT WOULD HAPPEN SOON.

CHOU EN-LAI HAS NOT TAKEN PART IN THESE TALKS; HE IS STILL SICK INTHE HOSPITAL BUT LATE LAST NIGHT KISSINGER VISITED HIM THERE. CHOU HAS BEEN IN THE HOSPITAL FOR FIVE MONTHS. HE IS 76 YEARS OLD AND IN FRAIL HEALTH. KISSINGER HAD DEVELOPED A WARM RELATIONSHIP WITH CHOU IN KISSINGER'S SIX PRIOR VISITS TO CHINA. THIS IS ONLY A SOCIAL MTG; IT LASTED ONLY A 1/2 HOUR. NANCY KISSINGER WAS THERE WITH HER HUSBAND AND SO WERE HAK'S TWO CHILDREN FROM HIS FIRST MARRIAGE, LIZA AND DAVID.

5. CBS , WALTER CRONKITE: MARVIN KALB REPORTS FROM PEKING: THE SECRETARY QUICLY REASSURED CHINESE LEADERS THAT THE VLADIVOSTOK SUMMIT WAS NOT DIRECTED AGAINST THEM BUT AGAINST THE SPIRALING ARMS RACE. THE CHINESE ARE POLITE BUT THEY DO NOT SEEM PERSUADED. THEY GO THROUGH THE MOTIONS OF CORDIALITY. CHOU EN-LAI, THE AILING
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PRIME MINISTER, CHATS WITH THE SECRETARY FOR HALF AN HOUR, FRONT PAGE NEWS ALL OVER CHINA TODAY. THEIR MEETING IS PLEASANT BUT NOT SUBSTANTIVE. HSIAO-PING, THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, HAS SLIPPED INTO HIS PLACE. THE CHINESE LEADER OPENS THE TALKS BY POINTING TO REPORTS THAT CHINESE-AMERICAN RELATIONS HAVE COOLED OVER THE PAST YEAR. TODAY IN TWO MEETINGS, SIMILAR IN STYLE TO LAST NIGHT'S CURTAIN-RAISER, PING EXPRESSED IMPATIENCE WITH AMERICAN UNWILLINGNESS TO BREAK WITH NATIONALIST GOVERNMENT IN TAIWAN. FILM WITH KALB NARRATING: AS THE TRADITIONAL BANQUET IN THE CAVERNOUS GREAT HALL OF THE PEOPLE, THE MUSIC IS SWEET BUT THE TOASTS ARE NOT. THE NEW FON MIN SPEAKS OF CONTRADICTIONS AND DISORDER UNDER THE HEAVENS. IN OUR VIEW, HE SAYS, TURMOIL IS A GOOD THING. HAK ACKNOWLEDGES THE TURMOIL BUT CITES THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUED GOOD RELATIONS WITH CHINA. (HAK ON FILM STATING THAT RELATIONSHIP IS NOT ONE OF EXPEDIENCY BUT A FIXED PRINCIPLE IN AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY.)

KALB: HAK KNOWS THAT CHINESE-AMERICAN RELATIONS ARE NOW MARKING TIME, WAITING FOR BOTH SOCIETIES TO SORT OUT THEIR DOMESTIC PROBLEMS BEFORE REACHING OUT FOR NEW ADVENTURES.

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